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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/046,141	01/16/2002	Tetsuo Yamaguchi	2870-0177P	3642

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EXAMINER

CHEA, THORL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1752

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicant No.

10/046,141

Applicant(s)

YAMAGUCHI, TETSUO

Examiner

Thorl Chea

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Ito et al (Ito) or JP11-149136 (JP'146) in view of Adin et al (Adin).

Ito a photothermographic material containing non-photosensitive silver halide, photosensitive silver halide, reducing agent for silver ions and binder and the compound of formula (1) to (3) claimed in the present claimed invention, and the amount thereof is within 1×10^{-6} mol to 1 mol/mol of silver halide. Note to the compound of formula (1) to (3) in column 18 and the amount thereof in column 33, lines 22-25. The JP'136 discloses a heat-developable material containing non-photosensitive silver halide, photosensitive silver halide, reducing agent for silver ions and binder and the compound exemplified in the present application disclosure which meet the requirements (1) to (iii) claimed in the present invention, and the amount thereof is from 1×10^{-6} mol to 1 mole/mol of silver halide. See the compound in column 1 (or Its English equivalent, US Patent No. 6,177,240, in columns 7-24; and in column 26, lines 37-40). The silver halide emulsion taught in both Ito and JP'136 are spectrally sensitized with a known spectrally sensitizing dyes. Adin discloses a spectrally sensitized within the scope of formula (I) of the claimed invention, and the amount thereof is from 1×10^{-8} to 2×10^{-3} mol

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per mol of silver in the emulsion layer. The compound is capable of enhancing both intrinsic sensitivity and the spectrally sensitivity of the silver halide emulsion, and the activity of the compound can be easily varied with substituents to control their speed and fog effects in a manner appropriate to the particular silver halide in which they are used. Note to the compound in column 4, especially lines 26-38 and 55-65, and the amount thereof in column 60, lines 5-18.

The teaching in Ito and JP'136 differs from the claimed invention in the use of compound of formula (I) which has been known in Adin, wherein the compound is capable of enhancing both intrinsic sensitivity and the spectrally sensitivity of the silver halide emulsion, and the activity of the compound can be easily varied with substituents to control their speed and fog effects in a manner appropriate to the particular silver halide in which they are used. It would have been obvious to the worker of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the dye taught in Adin to spectrally sensitize the silver halide taught in either Ito or JP'136 because of its advantage over the conventional spectrally sensitizing such as discussed above to provide a material claimed in the present claimed invention.

The data shown in the specification disclosure has been considered, but does not overcome the rejection set forth above since it is irrelevant to Ito or JP'136. Moreover, the results shown therein is similar to that taught in Ito and JP'136 in term of Dmax or image contrast.

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Conclusion

3. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.


4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thorl Chea whose telephone number is (703)308-3498. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 - 6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janet C Baxter can be reached on (703)308-2303. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)872-9301 for regular communications and (703)872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0661.

Tchea 
December 1, 2002


Thorl Chea
Primary Examiner
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